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1873-03-21

Letter from Henry S. Butler to [James D. Butler], 1873 Mar 21.

Henry S. Butler

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Phillips Exeter Academy.
Exeter N. H. March. 21. 1873.

Dear Father.

Enclosed you will find Mr. Clark's letter. You ought to preserve it out of respect to the man who so greatly admires you. ^{now?} You call him "head of East Hampton which is said to beat both Exeter and even Andover". Now I happen to know that the principal of Williston Seminary, the school at East Hampton, is Dr. Marshall Wenshaw and, as your friend dates his letter "North Hampton Mass.," I take it that you accidentally miscall his residence and that he has charge of some school in the latter place. I am afraid Richard Grant White would find fault with your sentence, "both Exeter and even Andover", by which you make Exeter the inferior. The use of so indefinite a term as "is said" and your writing East for North Hampton is enough to satisfy me that you make that statement more to tease ^{me} than for anything else. 06088

His remarks on Senator Sumner, I suppose you agree, are good. This is another case of the people's fickleness.

The modern Athenians, if they had possessed the power, would not have hesitated to use their oyster-shells against their Aristides the Just. Yet the cause, which he ~~at first~~ advocated almost alone and on account of which the people hissed at him, is constantly gaining favor and by some who were most hostile to the South as Wendell Phillips. Perhaps in ten years this project may be looked upon by the the people as as a wise and just plan and its author right-but wrong, for being too far ahead of the times.

I like your pamphlet on Nebraska and think you have succeeded well in writing, with the dry statements of the country, so many characteristic and amusing anecdotes. It cannot fail to attract many. Yet I don't wonder that many should be unwilling to "follow the crowd". I have seen notices in the New York City papers of gatherings of dissatisfied farmers all through your grand belt of dense population - in Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. In Ohio (I think) at a convention of this sort a farmer arose and taking out a \$100. bill ^{offered it} to any farmer who for three years had made both ends meet.

The bill was unclaimed. Can you wonder that men are unwilling to go West and suffer all the privations of frontier life to make nothing as they ^{are} ~~lead~~ to believe by those already there? Why should they go West and pay a bounty to the manufacturing states?

I send you a lot of Harvard Examination papers (given to candidates last 7ber) and such as I will have to encounter, should I go to that College. Please return with observations and suggestions, ^{as} you see fit.

The paper on Greek prose composition is thought to be pretty hard. What you say about them?

I have not recited to Doctor Soule this term, though he has had a class all the time. The other day I had an occasion to speak to him. He is 76 years old and having had such a vast number of pupils under him, it is very naturally hard for him to remember names. He knew me well enough but could not recall my name. So he asked me about my father, where was he? Wisconsin. How was he? Well. When had I heard from him lately. How often did he write? About once a week. How often did I write him? About every week. I began to think he was going to expel ^{me} for what I could not imagine, when he said "You please remember me to him when you write." and then he said "I really

cannot remember your⁴³ name." Then I saw that he had asked me all those questions while he was trying to think of my name. He hated to confess that he could not remember it.

Very often the first thing I see on getting up in the morning is Dr. Soule taking a walk. He is very erect in his walk - quite remarkably so I think.

I have read this term "Vathek" by William Beckford, Franklin's Autobiography, First part of "Don Quixote" translated by Motteux, Macauley's "Lays of Ancient Rome" and "Legends of West" by James Hall, a book in Golden Branch library about 30 years old, containing some very beautiful stories of that country where I was born and bred, and where I hope my home will always be.

Please send me my term bill.

I am very happy to learn of my mother's improved health. I send my love to her, and my sisters.

Your Affectionate Son,

Prof. James D. Butter. Henry S. Butter.

Lake-Wood Cottage.

Madison,

Wisconsin.